

Pitman Grove Camp Meeting
Bounded by North, East, South and West Avenues
Pitman
Gloucester County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-730

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

PITMAN GROVE CAMP MEETING

- Location: Bounded by North, East, South, and West Avenues, Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey.
- Present Owner: The New Jersey Conference Camp Meeting Association owns, and offers for rent, 70 of the 160 houses within the meeting grounds. The remaining 90 houses are owned by private individuals who pay land rent to the association.
- Present Use: Small residential community and the scene of summer religious conferences.

PART I. AREA SURVEY

1. Historical and Architectural Significance: Pitman Grove Camp Meeting was founded in the summer of 1871 by a small group of ministers from the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Church, and was named in honor of Rev. Charles Pitman, D.D., a powerful camp meeting preacher of his day.

A large auditorium, the focal point of the religious activity, is at the center of the meeting grounds. Narrow walkways radiate from the central common space, and are lined with small cottages which were constructed soon after 1871 to provide temporary accommodations for those people attending the meetings. Some of these cottages were built by the Camp Meeting Association and rented to the summer residents while others were built by private individuals on rented lots. In later years, the houses were equipped for permanent occupancy, and although the camp meeting is still active, the residents need not have religious affiliation.

With the exception of the dwellings facing the central common area and those on the perimeter of the meeting grounds, all of the cottages are arranged along the radial walkways on lots typically 20' or less in width and uniformly 40' in depth, thus forming wedge-shaped common areas at the rear of each row. The two-story structures are seasonal in character, usually having front porches and rich late 19th-century detail.

The general feeling of the meeting grounds is one of quiet informality, and although the cottages have been adapted for permanent occupancy, the sense of a coherent seasonal community is still prevalent.

2. Sources of Information: Historical information obtained from William Peterson, Superintendent of the Pitman Grove Camp Meeting and the following publications:

"Highlights of Early Pitman Grove". Supplement to The Pitman Grove Review, July 1961.

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Harold F. Wilson. A History of Pitman, New Jersey. (Borough of Pitman, 1955).

PART II. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC STRUCTURE

COTTAGE

Address: 196 Southwest Avenue, Pitman Grove Camp Meeting, Pitman, Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Present Owner: New Jersey Conference Camp Meeting Association.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Stover.

Present Use: Dwelling.

A. General Statement

1. Historical and Architectural Significance: Built in the late 19th century, the dwelling is located within the boundaries of the Pitman Grove Camp Meeting and was constructed as a seasonal cottage to be occupied by visitors to the annual summer religious meetings.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: A partial basement and pantry shed have been added. The sidelights which originally flanked the front door have been boarded over.

B. Detailed Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories: Two.
2. Over-all dimensions: 12' x 46'2"
3. Layout: Rectangular plan, on north-south axis.
4. Foundations: Presumed to be concrete block filling, in original open crawl space. Cottage probably raised above ground on brick piers.
5. Wall construction: Finish color; frame construction with modern white composition siding. Gable finished with decorative wood shingles.
6. Structural system, framing: Wood stud exterior walls with wood joists spanning east and west.

7. Porch: Second floor overhangs the first floor on the south (front) side, forming a porch 6' deep. Porch 4' wide continues around the west side. Angled entrance to the porch is in the southwest corner with a projecting, gabled hood decorated with "jig-saw" trim.
8. Chimney: Modern chimney to vent heating system is on the east side.
9. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Plain door frames with slightly pedimented architraves. Front door on south side originally flanked by side lights; the whole surrounded by plain trim. Side door from porch is on west side and rear door is on north side.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Plain window frames with slightly pedimented architraves. Second floor, two-over-one-light, double hung. First floor, one-over-one-light, double hung. Gable window, three-light casement. Beaded board and batten shutters on two windows on south elevation of second floor.
10. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with ridge running north and south; asphalt shingles.
 - b. Eaves: Intricate "jig saw" wood trim.

C. Detailed Description of the Interior

1. Floor plans: Modern basement under center section of house reduced to crawl space at the north and south ends. First Floor: Three rooms and pantry arranged in series on the north-south axis. Stairways to basement and second floor are in northwest corner of front room. Second Floor: Narrow hall connects room at south end with room at north end, and is flanked by stair on west and bathroom on the east.
2. Stairways: Single-run, modern stair to basement located in west wall of front room. Two-run stair to second floor in northwest corner of front room; gate from north side of landing to middle room presumably to permit the passage of furniture.
3. Flooring: 3" - 4 1/2" random-width tongue-and-groove pine flooring. No baseboards.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Paneled throughout, 3" tongue-and-groove (beaded) ceilings painted white; walls stained dark brown.
 5. Doorways and doors: Doorway from middle room to kitchen on first floor; doorways from second floor hall to each of the three rooms. Plain trim throughout.
 6. Lighting: Surface-mounted electric fixtures.
 7. Heating: Modern central heating system in basement.
- D. Site and Surroundings: Situated on north side of Southwest Avenue, facing fire patrol parking lot and is within the boundaries of the Pitman Grove Camp Meeting, a community of small two-story cottages. Empty lot to the east and two-story cottage immediately to the west, with narrow walkway running between.

Prepared by John D. Milnar, Architect
National Park Service
March 1963.